FBIS DAILY REPORT

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REPORT ON ANNEX TO DOCUMENT DELIVERED TO BRAZIL

PY071545 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1143 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Mar (NA)--Along with its rejection of the claims made by the Brazilian Government with regard to the negotiations to make the Parana River hydroelectric plants compatible, the Argentine Government distributed an annex containing technical, legal and political aspects which support those principles it considers inviolable.

The document states: "Nothing decided by Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay can have any validity beyond their legal competence or their territorial jurisdiction."

It later emphasizes the trilateral implications of the operation of the Itaipu powerplant, including the detailing of provisions which should regulate the filling of the lake with regard to the hydrological conditions in the year it is done, the need for informative cooperation in the construction of Corpus, or in the retention of the river flow in specific cases.

The annex also refers to navigation on the Parana and states that the Argentine Government "has every right to demand that a manmade structure, such as a dam, does not convert its rights into a dead issue."

However, the document recognizes that the Argentine Government has preferred to limit itself in practice to the Itaipu treaty and the reversal note on navigation signed by the government of Brazil and Paraguay on the occasion of the signing of that treaty. The text adds: "These documents are sufficiently detailed and Argentina assumes they were signed to be put into practice when, of course, the time is right. It wants to make clear, however, that Itaipu should not, at an unspecified time in the future, constitute an obstacle damaging the Parana River as a great navigational route."

It then discards the possibility that "the nature of the river could be changed in an unreasonable manner" in any case and discusses Brazilian objections to the positions taken with regard to Itaipu's operation.

"The intention of the Argentine Government was to reestablish the balance by placing things in appropriate symmetry. In effect, the increase of the Corpus waterhead over the average level of the point at which the three jurisdictional waters meet, a maximum of 105 meters, represents the maximum normally tolerated by Brazil in the modification of this level," the document states. It adds: "At the same time, by establishing the next point with navigational parameters, the limits between which there can be daily and hourly variations in the normal level of the river are set. The symmetry is perfect."

The problem of the number of turbines at Itaipu is also a subject for analysis, and the Argentine Government recalls that during the second trilateral meeting, the Brazilian delegation reasserted what it had said from the beginning: "Itaipu will have only 18 turbines." This endorsed the fact that the Corpus waterhead is directly related to the number of turbines in the Itaipu plant in technical as well as political aspects.

In its last item, the annex stated that from all the points made "it becomes clear that Argentina has not made any proposal lacking in sense or which could be rejected without prior analysis and discussion, as had been stated." "Naturally, we do not believe that Argentina's points of view should have indisputable validity for Brazil and Paraguay," the annex states, and later adds that they are "issues open to discussion" since none of them presents "special difficulties for discussion."

The document then states: "From a set of propositions, each of them open to reasonable analysis, there cannot arise a proposal which as a whole is irrational. That is against the nature of things and philosophically contradictory."

The text of the annex to the document ends by stating that "we have reached the point at which we can consider that the elimination of the complementary numerical data of zero altitude introduces an element of unnecessary and unwanted doubt. [sentence as received] It is obvious that the analysis deserved by the Argentine suggestions was not conducted with fully settled [sereno] criteria."

The Argentine Government believes that "here, as on other occasions, it has not been responsible for the confusion between what is essential and what is complementary in an agreement of the importance of the one being negotiated." Finally, it warns: "Calmly reestablishing those criteria will [words indistinct] allow us to find a solution satisfactory to all."

CNEA PRESIDENT DISCUSSES NUCLEAR PLAN

PY061506 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2045 GMT 5 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 5 Mar (NA)--Discussing the national government's approval of the nuclear plan, Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, president of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], has stated that "we are facing the second part of the plan which consists of defining which enterprise or country will cooperate with us in our nuclear program."

Castro Madero explained that the decision of the executive branch to define the national nuclear plan "constitutes a highly important step in offering a promising future to industry and the economy because it will help to establish plans and goals and will define the capacities of the complementary plants and the kind of fuel to be used. The CNEA president made this statement to Radio Continental during an interview after he had presided over the opening ceremony of the fourth course on advanced metallurgy training, which is an OAS international program.

Talking about the second stage of the nuclear plan, Castro Madero said that this stage consists of implementing the national nuclear policy that will determine the enterprise or country which will participate in our nuclear plan." Referring to the possibility that the FRG may cooperate with Argentina in the development of guidelines for the nuclear plan and to the possibility that such cooperation will promote international pressures similar to those experienced by the FRG when it signed an agreement with Brazil, Castro Madero said: "It is likely that this will happen. There is much concern in the international field to avoid nuclear proliferation, and all of these nuclear programs in one way or another face this possibility since international measures are under study."

Castro Madero explained: "On my recent visit to Vienna I attended a meeting of the Board of Governors of the international nuclear energy organization during which I was appointed a member of the scientific committee." He added that his visit to South Africa was for private reasons.

The opening ceremony of the fourth course on advanced metallurgy training was held this morning at CNEA headquarters and was attended by national authorities, representatives from international organizations and representatives from other countries participating in the program.

ECONOMY MINISTER CALLS FOR PEOPLE'S SUPPORT

PY061630 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 6 Mar--Argentine Economy Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz has discussed the economic plan and admitted that "no government can implement such a program unless it is supported by the entire citizenry." He indicated that this support must not be given "as an obligation because of fear, coercion or self-interest, but based on a true conviction that it is advantageous to the country and therefore to each and every one of its inhabitants."

He added: "Gentlemen, we are in the midst of a process. Let us bear in mind that we never believed we could conclude it in 3 years." Martinez de Hoz was speaking yesterday at a dinner commemorating the anniversary of the stock market, and his speech was primarily aimed at explaining his economic plan.

"The need to make structural changes in our economy has been advocated for many years," the minister indicated, "but now when we are implementing these changes it seems that they are not the ones some people had hoped for." He went on to discuss the amendment of the exchange rates and the rates which are being applied in the financial, tax and price systems.

"We have managed to change the very structure of Argentina's economy," Martinez de Hoz said. "If some want other structures, it is up to the Argentine people to show the course they really want to follow. Should we proceed with the formula which for 30 years, with only a few exceptions, has been deceiving us and has taken us to the verge of chaos, or should we plot another course and set our sights on other goals which, although they may seem difficult at first, are the ones which the country requires in order to catch up with the rest of the world in this last quarter of the century?"

According to Martinez de Hoz, this is one of the crucial moments in Argentine history, "when all those who want to thwart this course are demanding changes to return to previous systems." He stated: "We, on the other hand, want changes to attain the future we desire, a future which is certainly not a return to the past." Finally the economy minister urged "all Argentines to realize that the country is living in an historical moment and to rest assured that the efforts of these last 3 years will not be in vain if we pursue them with the required dynamism."

BRIEFS

1978 SURPLUSES--Argentina posted surpluses in 1978 of $2.4 billion and $1,998,000,000 in its balance of trade and its balance of payments respectively. In 1978 the country exported $6.35 billion worth of products, primarily agricultural, while importing $3.35 billion. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1620 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY]

AUTHORITIES EXPEL 17 CHILEAN CITIZENS

PY070226 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0015 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 7 Mar (LATIN)--Newspaper sources reported today here that 17 Chilean citizens were expelled from Bolivia on orders from military authorities and the Immigration Office of the Interior Ministry. All of them were residents of Santa Cruz, and their expulsion was implemented today in the wake of long meetings among high-ranking Bolivian military officers, Radio Nueva America reported, attributing the information to official sources.

The expulsion of this group of Chilean residents took place a few days after newspapers of Santa Cruz, 900 km southeast of La Paz, reported the discovery of alleged espionage by Chileans.

Reports published today said that several reserved meetings were held in the eastern capital, some of them with the chief of staff of the armed forces, Gen Victor Castillo Suarez, in attendance.

Military and immigration authorities ordered the expulsion of the 17 Chilean citizens aboard a private plane which flew them to the nearest border point, the reports said.

Sources in the Interior Ministry said that they had no details on the measure, but pointed out that the Chileans may have been at fault regarding their documentation and legal residence in the country.

Radio Nueva America gave the following names of the Chileans who were expelled: Tomas Toro Ramirez, Nelly Carrizo de Alvarado, Johnny Alvarado Carrizo, Roy Alvarado Callizo, Segundo Vecencio Zuniga, Alfredo Mezza Rios, Felipe Campuzano Gusman, Nivia del Carmen River, Dagoberto Mosalve Echeverria, Carlos Chavez Ramos, Gilberto Veliz Velez, Domingo Campusano Villalobos, Miguel Becerra Espinoza, Antonio Catalan Jofre, Cesar Vidal Jorquera and Rene Osadon Pereira.

The reports added that none of them will be allowed to return to Bolivia.

The first group of 20 Chileans was expelled from Bolivia early this year charged with illegal residence in the Department of Santa Cruz.

CHILEAN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY REPORTED IN SANTA CRUZ

PY031356 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0333 GMT 3 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 2 Mar (LATIN)--Bolivian military authorities detected Chilean espionage activities in Santa Cruz, according to reports made by the main newspaper of that city located 900 km southeast of La Paz. The news, disclosed today by the newspaper EL PAIS, was not immediately commented on by authorities questioned in the capital.

The report, published on the front page under the headline "Chilean Intelligence Operating in Our City," is the latest of several recent reports on alleged Chilean espionage activities in Bolivia. EL PAIS stated today in Santa Cruz that the alleged espionage work of Chilean officers centers around the El Trompillo airport, the military base and places in which the army has its principal units.

The press report added that the civilian and military authorities of that department are remaining absolutely silent about this affair.

AUSTERITY MEASURES ORDERED FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

PY071432 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0356 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 6 Mar--The military government today ordered a drastic reduction in public officials' trips abroad and will no longer pay their private expenses, which weighed heavily on the deficit-ridden fiscal budget. The measures are described in a circular sent by President David Padilla Arancibia to the entire public administration.

The harsh austerity measures applied by the military regime to fiscal bureaucracy is the result of the delicate economic situation the country is experiencing, according to official sources. The chief of state informed the various government branches that from now on there will be no salary increases for public officials, nor will there be any hiring of new personnel until the end of the current fiscal year.

The presidential note indicated that the trips of public officials, both overseas and domestic, will have to be reduced to the indispensable minimum, and only trips aimed at representing the supreme government on unavoidable official missions will be authorized. The note warned that certain customary expenditures of public bureaucracy, such as payments to private clinics and medical care and the publication of greetings, baptism notices and other similar items, from now on will be considered private expenditures of the officials and will not be acknowledged by the state.

The presidential note was in effect an answer to a landslide of reports on the squandering of budget money by a number of government branches. The austerity campaign implies that all public expenditures will be strictly controlled by the Comptroller General's Office, and this entity will reject any obligation acquired through incorrect procedures such as lack of public bids, lack of budgetary allotment or appointments to public jobs to perform personal services.

DIVISION WITHIN NATIONAL ELECTORAL COURT DENIED

PY071247 La Paz INFOBOL in Spanish 0601 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY

[Text] The president and spokesman of the National Electoral Court have expressed their categorical rejection of the note which appeared in a local newspaper saying that this important organization was confronting a division among its members due to alleged personal attitudes attributed to Marcelo Cespedes. Asked about this situation, Atilio Valencia Vega, the representative of political parties to the electoral court, showed his surprise because, in his opinion, there have been no signs of division. Valencia said that ever since the National Electoral Court began its work, its tasks have been carried out within a framework of understanding among all members. He emphasized: "There could be a variety of opinions among us, but that does not represent a difference of opinion to the extent that we can say we are divided."

CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT MAY FACILITATE PARANA TALKS

PY071807 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1640 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 7 Mar (LATIN)--According to local diplomatic sources, the trilateral negotiations seeking to make the Itaipu and Corpus dams compatible could be resumed more calmly and less emotionally after the installation of the future Brazilian Government. The sources stated that despite the exchanges of vigorous notes marked with strong terminology between Brazil and Argentina, the upcoming change of the Brazilian Government on 15 March will create a favorable climate for resuming the negotiations, which are now at a crucial stage.

Much of the emotion which led Brazil and Argentina to react strongly is attributed to the character of Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira, whom reporter Carlos Conde today accused "of having always imposed a hard line on the dialog with Argentina." Azeredo da Silveira's successor at the Foreign Ministry, Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, is considered to be a peaceful man who will hardly be involved emotionally and who will change the style of the negotiations.

The note which the Argentine Foreign Ministry sent yesterday to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry includes between-the-lines accusations aimed exclusively at Azeredo da Silveira, criticizing him especially for disregarding an agreement reached in the United States establishing a waterhead of 105 meters for Corpus and 18 turbines for Itaipu.

PETROBRAS OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS OIL PURCHASES IN TEHRAN

PY080228 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Mar 79 p 1 PY

[Text] PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] will initiate contacts this week to renegotiate the oil supply agreement with Iran. To that end, two PETROBRAS officials will leave for Tehran today: marketing superintendent Armando Guedes Goelho and crude oil division chief Renato Magalhaes da Silveira. The envoys will obtain information on prices and volume after contacting officials of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC). Sources from the sector in Brazil, however, said that $15 per barrel is " a reasonable price." O GLOBO special correspondent to Tehran Eliezer Strauch reports that the fact that Brazil made its purchases through the state-owned company directly, instead of the consortium headed by British Petroleum which had a monopoly on sales, could be a great advantage for the Brazilian negotiators in the talks to work out a new scheme of supply. This will be possible if the willingness to give priority treatment to traditional customers expressed by NIOC holds up. According to experts of the Iranian company, there will be no difficulty in supplying the 180,000 barrels per day called for under the existing agreement with Brazil.

ARMED FORCES CHIEF DISCUSSES NATION'S PROBLEMS

PY071239 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Gen Jose Maria de Andrade Serpa, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff [EMFA], stated today in Rio de Janeiro that the next government will have to face two extremely important and serious issues: amnesty and party reorganization.

Opening classes at the war college, the EMFA chief stated that the generation of the thirties had a liberal education and noted that the 1946 constitution, despite the communist and integralist revolutions, was the most liberal of all. He warned, however, that one can no longer harbor illusions, since both economic and political liberalism has become obsolete. Democracy cannot follow suicidal trends.

He added: Since both communism and corruption persist, we must fight them accordingly. Violence persists in the world. We must achieve a truly Brazilian democracy, free of foreign pressure, be it from the left or the right.

Speaking about amnesty, General Andrada Serpa said this is a political problem, but he made it clear that there are people who were punished for having committed political crimes, kidnapings, murders, corruption and robbery.

He also discussed party reorganization and noted that he favors the district vote system, which would be a logical remedy for demagogs who are always ready to deceive the unprotected masses who become victims of their artful tricks.

He also recalled that rather small parties were often able to acquire a real political bargain in the country's political context before the 1964 revolution.

He defended the Brazilian economic model, noting that exporting is the only valid alternative at this moment to avoid damaging the domestic market. He advocated expansion of the democratic market through increased production and through effective and just distribution of income.

O ESTADO EXAMINES POSSIBILITY OF PROBLEMS WITH MILITARY

PY061313 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 79 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page by C.C.: "Government Seems Afraid of Military Reaction Against Reforms"]

[Excerpts] Both in the introduction and in the chapter devoted to the Justice Ministry, the message sent to Congress by President Geisel the day before yesterday makes reference to "cohesion and loyalty of the armed forces and their constitutional mission." The statement has an essentially political character and caused the main congressional leaders yesterday to raise some specific questions: Would the military, or at least some of them, oppose the reforms and the improvement of the regime to the point that the chief of government had to emphasize what is obvious? After all, no reference was made or heard regarding the loyalty and cohesion of civilian functionaries. Furthermore, the passages referring to the armed forces' constitutional mission, both in the introduction and in the chapter regarding the Justice Ministry, are preceded by warnings and even apprehension over political stability. Things like this are not said for nothing, and the conclusion to be drawn is that the government, with only 12 days to go on its term, is afraid for the future of the regime.

The military is a weighty factor in the political events which are taking place and can influence their course one way or another, depending on such events themselves. In the ceremony of delivering the presidential message to Congress, several ministers, except the military ministers who did not attend, took as quite natural proposals for the creation of a congressional investigation commission to look into the activities of the security and intelligence agencies and another one to investigate violations of human rights committed by the repressive apparatus in the past. In fact these proposals are not that simple, and so the leaders of the National Renewal Alliance, Jarbas Passarinho and Nelson Marchezan, are already maneuvering to keep the Brazilian Democratic Movement from implementing the proposals of its blocs. Allowing the functioning of these two congressional investigation commissions, Passarinho and Marchezan believe, would be like opening the doors for the unexpected or for an explosion. And yet, if the opposition insists and obtains one-third of the signatures of the members of either the Chamber of Deputies or the Senate, there is no way to block the creation of the two investigation commissions. [paragraph continues]

And if this happens, will the armed forces continue to stick to their constitutional mission? Will they remain cohesive and united, watching their members being arraigned in the criminal dock, although some of them may have done enough to warrant an investigation and even punishment by the court?

It can be plainly seen in all of this that the so-called system still exists, is taken into consideration, is feared and is capable of reversing the trend of optimistic expectations for the country's return to a fully democratic state of rights. In view of this, the possibility exists that only the part mentioning cohesion and loyalty in the presidential statement will be complied with, because the political stability might just go down the drain if the armed forces overstep the boundaries of their constitutional mission as has happened so many times in the recent past.

DOPS MEMBERS ACCUSED IN URUGUAYAN COUPLE'S KIDNAPING

PY031803 Paris AFP in Spanish 0420 GMT 3 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpts] Porto Alegre, 2 Mar (AFP)--Police officer Pedro Seelig and policeman Orandir Portassi Lucas, both belonging to the Department of Political and Social Order [DOPS] or Rio Grande do Sul, were charged here today by State Attorney Dirceu Pinto with the kidnaping of the Uruguayan couple Universindo Diaz and Lilian Celiberti.

The Uruguayan couple and their two small children were kidnaped last November by Uruguayan military police personnel, aided by DOPS personnel from Rio Grande do Sul, according to charges made on several occasions by the Brazilian press and the Brazilian Bar Association, which investigated the case.

Universindo Diaz and Lilian Celiberti were kidnaped on 17 November, and after their children had been handed over to their grandparents the Uruguayan Armed Forces released a communique, which has been questioned by Brazilian lawyers, saying that the couple had been detained when they tried to enter Uruguayan territory illegally.

The Rio Grande do Sul Security Secretariat, an organization linked with the DOPS, has investigated the case by order of Governor Synval Guazelli, but the results have been considered unsatisfactory so far.

Yesterday the interim governor of the state, Deputy Carlos Giacomezzi of the opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] dismissed from his post police officer Jahir de Souza Pinto, who refused to reveal the names of any personnel working for the DOPS during the period from August to November 1978.

Interim Governor Carlos Giacomezzi, who transferred the post to the incumbent Synval Guazelli this afternoon, said that the unusual behavior of police officer Souza Pinto implied disobedience, but still more it revealed an intention which was not possible to tolerate without loss of authority.

Synval Guazelli made no comments on the decision made by his substitute and only confirmed his intention to fully clarify the kidnaping of the Uruguayan couple and their children and the participation of Brazilian policemen in the incident.

In a report on his management of the Rio Grande do Sul Government, Giacomezzi recommended to Synval Guazelli that the investigation of the case be undertaken by a commission formed by representatives of the Interior Ministry and the Brazilian Bar Association.

CUBILLOS DENOUNCES INTERNATIONAL 'HYPOCRISY' ON HUMAN RIGHTS

PY070044 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos has stated that Chile will not accept any further special procedures in the United Nations regarding human rights. Cubillos categorically stated that there are no human rights violations in Chile. He added that the president has given explicit instructions that once the Chilean Government had fulfilled its commitment to accept the visit of the UN work commission, the Chilean Government would in the future only submit itself to UN general procedures. Cubillos said: We will not accept special procedures any more because we believe that Chile does not deserve this treatment.

He explained that there are many political factors at the international level which are involved in this and that, therefore, human rights violations are not investigated in many countries. Cubillos noted: There is a lot of hypocrisy at the international level. This is why we are turning our backs to the issue and why we are giving it less importance. He said that in Chile there are no human rights violations and that this is what counts.

Cubillos asserted that this will be the definitive position to be enforced at the international level. Chile will act on the basis of general procedures and not be subjected to special norms. As for the conduct to be followed in case the United Nations appoints three experts to investigate the case of missing persons, as was motioned by Sweden, Cubillos did not make any comment in this regard but stated that each case would be reviewed at the proper time.

SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT CRITICIZES U.S. RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE

PY071339 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 Mar 79 PY

[Text] "Edward Mezvinsky must live on some other planet," Supreme Court President Israel Borquez said in connection with some statements made by the U.S. representative to the UN Human Rights Commission. Showing his absolute ignorance of the modus operandi of Chilean justice, Mezvinsky had said: "We are concerned over the sustained failure of Chilean courts to exercise their powers to protect Chileans from false arrest and arbitrary imprisonment perpetrated by the security organizations." The tone of this statement is offensive because it would seem that the powers of Chilean justice have been granted especially by the United States. The problem is that Mezvinsky made these remarks during the 36th meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in such an assured manner that he gave the impression of being truly knowledgeable on the subject.

Asked about these remarks, the president of the Chilean Supreme Court stated: "This gentleman must live on some other planet or on a satellite of Venus because he gives the impression of being out in space. Mezvinsky does not see things as they truly are."

Borquez added: "As an answer to his remarks, I merely wish to quote former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's statement in Mexico, published under the title 'Mistakes of U.S. Foreign Policy.' In his statement Kissinger pointed out that the White House does not use commonsense in dealing with international problems. It is obvious that Mezvinsky and his remarks are an example of what Kissinger was saying." Israel Borquez further said: "There is no doubt that this gentleman knows nothing about Chilean courts and even less about Chilean justice. He seems to advocate the showy type of justice administered by the executive branch." The president of the Supreme Court concluded by repeating that "Mezvinsky must be living on another planet because he knows nothing of what goes on in Chile or anywhere else on planet Earth."

POLICE IDENTIFY LABOR LEADER MERCADO'S MURDERER

PA072033 Paris AFP in Spanish 1519 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 7 Mar (AFP)--It was reported today that police have identified Marco Antonio Velandia, the man who asked for political asylum at the French Embassy here, as the man who murdered labor leader Jose Raquel Mercado in 1976. A police spokesman said that Velandia was the person who (?shot) Mercado twice. Mercado, then president of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia, was kidnaped and killed by the M-19 guerrilla group. The authorities said that a member of the terrorist group who is currently under arrest made the disclosure and explained that Velandia had received guerrilla training in Cuba before joining the subversive movement.

Velandia asked for political asylum at the French Embassy in Bogota on Friday. However, the Colombian Government has not decided if it will issue a safe-conduct for him because the authorities feel that he is also a "common criminal." Velandia based his petition for asylum on the fact that he was being sought by the army because of his ties with the M-19.

Velandia Granted Asylum

PA072002 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The French Government today granted asylum to Colombian Marco Antonio Velandia, who sought refuge at the French Embassy in Bogota last Thursday. French Ambassador Augustin Alline told RCN that the embassy has already requested a safe-conduct from the Colombian Foreign Ministry so that Velandia can travel to Paris. Marco Antonio Velandia, a Communist Party agitator, has pending matters with Colombian courts. He sought refuge on Thursday, claiming to be a political fugitive, and requested asylum so that he could travel to Paris. Ambassador Alline said he expects a reply from the Colombian Foreign Ministry within the next few hours.

VENEZUELA ADMITS COLOMBIAN PEASANTS KILLED IN BORDER AREA

PA061924 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Venezuelan Government today admitted the killing of Colombian peasants who lacked identification documents in the border area, but pointed out that the figures included in various reports were exaggerated. Venezuelan Ambassador in Colombia Guido Grooscors said that his government had received information on the incidents on the Colombian border. According to it, a very small number of Colombian peasants had died under circumstances that are being thoroughly investigated to establish responsibilities. The Venezuelan diplomat met today with President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala in San Carlos Palace. He said his government had already replied to the note from Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas demanding an explanation of the incidents.

OFFICIAL REPORTS ON COAL EXPLOITATION PROSPECTS

PA061702 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 1 Mar 79 p 16 PA

[Text] The conversion of coal into oil is quite feasible; and Colombia, whose coal reserves are estimated at 40 billion tons, will enter the age of coal chemistry [carboquimica] in order to undertake that process nationwide.

The president of the state-owned Colombian Coal Company [Carbones de Colombia--CARBOCOL], Andres Restrepo Londono, made the statement. He will have to face one of the biggest current national challenges: turning coal into the most promising alternative to the current energy crisis.

The official was commenting on a newspaper article datelined London entitled "Coal: A New Engine for the World," in which the importance of that mineral with regard to the acute hydrocarbon shortage is analyzed. It is noted that through a liquefication system it can be turned into oil, with all its advantages.

Restrepo Londono observed that the conversion is quite possible and that, even though the government's coal plans for the immediate future do not include entering into the age of coal chemistry, that step will be inevitable shortly in view of the ever-growing scarcity of crude.

He explained that the Germans exploited the process successfully during World War II when they were immobilized [bloqueados] due to a lack of fuel.

The CARBOCOL president noted that the country's coal reserves, estimated to be the largest in Latin America, will be enough to meet national development needs for the next 30 years, including substitution for oil byproducts to a large extent.

He said, however, that it is important to clarify that while these reserves are the largest in Latin America, they represent only 0.05 percent of the world potential.

Above all, the important thing is that the national government is preparing to undertake the biggest coal development program ever, and that Colombia has, indeed, entered the coal age, he stressed.

According to Restrepo Londono, the basis of any coal policy is the bill that the government will introduce to the national parliament next Tuesday, updating all legislation on coal and strengthening CARBOCOL operationally and financially.

Those who are producing constantly will face no major problems in paying the fee or tax [stipulated in the bill], but those who freeze their programs will see their debts to the state accumulate, so that they will have to either return the mines or exploit them adequately.

The collection of this tax will increase CARBOCOL's revenues. In turn, CARBOCOL will be able to expand its own programs and coordinate the development of coal policy overall.

The bill in question stipulates that the handling of coal, from extraction to transportation, is a public utility. CARBOCOL will be firmly in charge of coordinating all programs involving the mineral.

NEW SCANDAL INVOLVING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPORTED

PA060306 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Mar 79 PA

[Text] According to Democratic Left leader Dr Gonzalo Cordova Galarza, several scandals and irregularities involving a number of high-ranking government officials have been committed in connection with the issuance and sale of dollar bonds [bonos dolares].

The political leader indicated that in a charge in connection with this, dates, names, figures and the numbers of the accounts through which a former finance minister was bribed have been mentioned. The briber's name has also been mentioned, and he is a prominent member of the Constitutionalist Front, Dr Cordova added.

The citizens are indignant over this new scandal. Political analysts say that under the most recent military dictatorships a veritable operation has been carried out to plunder the state's funds.

COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 4-DAY VISIT

PA061826 Paris AFP in Spanish 1519 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] Quito, 6 Mar (AFP)--Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rafael Calderon arrived here at 1300 GMT for a 4-day visit at the invitation of the Ecuadorean Government. During his stay the Costa Rican and Ecuadorean foreign ministers will sign several technical and economic cooperation agreements, as well as a trade pact. At the end of his visit on Friday, they will sign a joint declaration.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON COLOMBIAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

PA071600 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Foreign Minister Jose Ayala has denied that the problem of Colombian illegal immigrants working in Ecuador is serious. The foreign minister was referring to a report from Colombia which indicated that some 50,000 Colombians might be deported from Ecuador.

The foreign minister noted that until recently an agreement was in effect between the two countries which guaranteed the legalization of the immigrants. He added that thousands of Colombians have taken advantage of the agreement's provisions.

[Begin recording] [Ayala] There was an agreement with Colombia which was in effect until recently. The agreement sought to give documents to the illegal immigrants in the country. Much has been achieved in this regard. Many Colombians have been granted these legal documents. Then they have to obtain their work permits in accordance with the law. Last night the labor and social welfare minister reported on the status of the solution of this problem. Therefore, I do not think the problem is as serious or alarming as it was presented in an international news dispatch.

[Unidentified newsman] Mr Minister, do you think jobs are being taken away from Ecuadoreans?

[Ayala] This is a subject that is within the purview of the labor and social welfare minister. However, I must add that I know that many Colombians work in specific areas of the country, such as Santo Domingo de los Colorados, where there seems to be a short supply of labor. [end recording]

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE PRESIDENT APPEARS IN COURT

Request for Dismissal

PY070206 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 6 Mar 79 p 25 PY

[Text] "They have summoned me here because of my defense of a noble and just cause. The government has chosen a wrong path which places the judiciary in a difficult situation, more difficult than mine. What is happening to me is nothing more than political persecution..." These were some of the remarks made by Mrs Carmen Casco de Lara Castro, president of the Human Rights Committee in Paraguay, to members of the press when complying with the summons issued by the Fourth Criminal Court judge at the criminal courts building where she was to have made a deposition of an informative nature.

The audience was scheduled for 0830. Mrs Carmen de Lara Castro arrived a few minutes ahead of time accompanied by her four defense attorneys: Jeronimo Irala Burgos, Miguel Abdon Saguier, Juan Manuel Benitez and Heriberto Alegre. Her husband, Luis de Lara Castro, was also in attendance.

At the specified time she submitted a brief which, among other things, says that "she hereby denounces serious irregularities and vices in the procedure used by the attorney general and consequently requests his honor to revoke the measure he adopted, based on the following conclusions:

"1. The attorney general requested that your honor carry out the 'corresponding investigation' in order to clarify the nature and activities of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Paraguay and those of other private entities. In his [attorney general's] long and not very clear complaint, he does not formulate any concrete charge regarding criminal activity by members of the aforementioned committee or by me in particular.

"2. The powers of the attorney general and of the prosecutors in general are outlined primarily in the constitution itself, Chapter 10, Article 214. They are also determined in Law No 325, organization of the judiciary, Chapter 3, Articles 46 through 53 and in Supreme Court resolutions such as No 31 of 24 November 1936.

"Among these powers, those regarding this case, there is that which is established in Article 214, Clause 4 of the constitution: 'To exercise penal action in the cases in which the presence of an accuser is not necessary to initiate or continue it, notwithstanding the fact that the judge or court can proceed on their own initiative when the law so determines.'

"This attribution is implemented through the criminal court prosecutor who must, according to Article 49, Clause 1, of Law No 325, 'initiate and continue the prosecution until its conclusion.'

"3. According to Article 1 of the Penal Procedure Code, 'a criminal trial can only be initiated through acts or omissions termed as crimes by a previously dated law.' Article 15 of the same code proclaims: 'All criminal actions permit penal action in order to punish the criminal.' According to Article 16: 'Penal action is either public [publico; whereby any individual or the state can bring charges] or private [privado; whereby only the offended party may bring charges]. It is public when it can be implemented by the prosecutor or the judge in his own right.' Article 17 states: 'The prosecutors will have the obligation of implementing the prosecution when in order and in accordance with the law.'

"According to Article 131 of the code, 'the trial has the objective of: A) proving the existence of a punishable crime; B) compiling the data which can influence its legal definition; C) discovering its authors, accomplices and helpers; and D) the implementation of the necessary measures for the arrest of the criminals and to insure their pecuniary liability.'"

Further on, the brief states that "the attorney general maintains the thesis that neither the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights nor other private entities have the competence for denouncing alleged human rights violations. This thesis is absolutely and dangerously false.

"Human rights violations are cataloged in various categories (torture, coersion, kidnaping, assault, abuse, bad treatment, violent death, abuse of authority and the burning and razing of lands and homes, etc.), crimes which come under the jurisdiction of public criminal action and which can be denounced by any individual within the national territory."

The brief also states: "Only a totalitarian viewpoint of the state, of a marked Stalinist slant, can intend to give the state the monopoly of such charges."

Concluding, Mrs Carmen de Lara Castro asks the judge to "revoke, based on his authority, the resolution which summons her to give a deposition of an informative nature. And also asks for the attorney general's complaint to be filed in view of the very serious irregularities and notorious procedural vice which it contains."

Request Denied

PY072238 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 Mar 79 p 30 PY

[Excerpts] Judge Santiago Vera Jara of the criminal court has rejected as out of order the request made yesterday by Carmen Casco de Laro Castro and, consequently, summoned her to reappear in court at 0830 on Friday, 9 March, to provide information.

Heriberto Alegre, one of the defense lawyers, tried to see the dossier this morning. Questioned as to the reason for Mrs Carmen de Lara Castro's refusal to provide information, he replied: "We do not want to set a court precedent. If she all too willingly answers the summons to provide information, anybody else in similar circumstances may be summoned for the same reason. Since no crime has been committed, a trial is not warranted."

Lawyer Alegre then said: "I do not know what will happen next Monday. I will have to talk with the other defense lawyers." It was learned in court circles that the judge wants Mrs Carmen de Lara Castro to provide information as a preliminary condition.

After information is provided, a trial would be ordered if the judge considers that legal grounds exist for it.

BRIEFS

MEXICAN BUSINESSMEN MEET STROESSNER--President Alfredo Stroessner yesterday met with a group of Mexican businessmen, including Guillermo Romano Nolck, brother-in-law of Mexican President Lopez-Portillo, who are in Paraguay to look into opportunities for investing Mexican capital in various fields of Paraguayan economy. [Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 7 Mar 79 p 6 PY]

PEREZ OPENS MEETING ATTENDED BY EX-L.A. PRESIDENTS

PA071549 Paris AFP in Spanish 0053 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 6 Mar (AFP)--President Carlos Andres Perez inaugurated a meeting here tonight on democracy in Latin America in which 15 former presidents of the region are participating.

The event is sponsored by the Institute of Higher Latin American Studies of the Simon Bolivar University (USB) and will study the failures and outlook of democracy in Latin America.

The event is being attended by Fernando Belaunde Terry and Jose Luis Bustamante (Peru); Jose Figueres, Joaquin Trejos and Daniel Oduber (Costa Rica); Misael Pastrana Borrero and Alfonso Lopez Michelsen (Colombia); Juan Bosch (Dominican Republic); Luis Echeverria (Mexico); Ramon Cruz (Honduras); Eduardo Frei (Chile); Galo Plaza (Ecuador); Arturo Illia (Argentina); Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro (Guatemala); and Rafael Caldera and Romulo Betancourt (Venezuela).

Former Bolivian presidents Victor Paz Estenssoro and Hernan Siles Zuazo excused themselves at the last minute because they are involved in their country's electoral campaign.

In his inaugural speech, Perez stressed the increase of totalitarianism, the attacks on democracy, and the violation of human rights, harshly criticizing the authoritarian regimes.

He indicated that authoritarian regimes smother democracy under the pretext of seeking greater effectiveness in the work of the state, but he added that this total effectiveness is completely false as has been shown in practice by numerous governments of this type in the region.

Perez said that the battle for democracy must be waged on the fronts of Latin American (?interaction), education and culture and through a more just distribution of the benefits of development and civilization.

He urged the conference participants to "clearly and without euphemisms" point out the problems and solutions to promote democracy in the continent.

The sessions will continue until Thursday when it will be closed by Venezuelan President-elect Luis Herrera Campins who takes office on 12 March. The conclusions of the meeting will be assembled in a book to be published by the host university.

CENTRAL BANK REPORTS $2.91-BILLION TRADE DEFICIT IN '78

PA071540 Paris AFP in Spanish 1958 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 6 Mar (AFP)--It was officially reported here today that Venezuela's trade balance for 1978 closed with a deficit of $2.91 billion. Exports dropped by 6.7 percent while imports rose by 16 percent, the Central Bank of Venezuela reported.

Exports, including oil, totaled $8.91 billion, while imports reached the record figure of almost $11.82 billion. Hydrocarbon exports dropped by 7.6 percent last year due to a lower extraction rate, but this did not prevent oil from making up 94 percent of Venezuela's total exports. Experts analyzing exports have noted that, far from declining, the country's dependence on oil has been increasing. Venezuela is the fourth world exporter of crude oil and the primary U.S. supplier. The foreign trade deficit led to a further balance of payments deficit, estimated at $2.81 billion.

FSLN'S CARDENAL SAYS U.S. BANK GAVE AID TO SOMOZA

PA061352 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0413 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Guanajuato (Mexico), 5 Mar (EFE)--Nicaraguan priest Ernesto Cardenal said here today that, contrary to its statements, the U.S. Government has increased economic aid to the Anastasio Somoza regime. Cardenal, who is visiting the country as a guest during celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI, in power), said that a private bank gave $80 million to the Somoza government.

The Nicaraguan priest, a member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], noted that while the U.S. Government had withdrawn its economic aid from Nicaragua, consisting of several million dollars, a private bank granted it a larger loan. "Despite this," the priest added, "the dictatorship is becoming increasingly weaker and we believe that its overthrow is due shortly."

He described the suspension of U.S. aid to Nicaragua as a "gesture by President Carter."

According to Cardenal, the FSLN is currently investigating the bank which granted Somoza the loan.

He affirmed that Somoza "will only be ousted by bullets." "This is evidenced in the fact that he has expressed his desire to remain in power if possible until the year 2000," he added.

Finally, he explained that he is sure they will obtain the support of the parties attending the PRI anniversary because they "struggle for democracy and social justice."

PRI PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT PARTY ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

PA050441 Paris AFP in Spanish 0028 GMT 5 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Queretaro, Mexico, 4 Mar (AFP)--The Institutional Revolutionary Party (the governing PRI) is struggling and will continue to struggle "against all political totalitarianism," its president Gustavo Carvajal said here today.

The top PRI leader spoke at the inauguration of ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the party. President Jose Lopez-Portillo, the full Cabinet and the governors of the republic's 32 states were in attendance.

At the public ceremony held in the city's main plaza, Carvajal said also that the party rejects "anarchic violence, nuclear weapons and the exploitation of poor countries by rich ones."

Concerning the domestic sphere, Carvajal said: "We demand enforcement of the rights of the peasants and the unemployed and education for the illiterate."

In addition to today's ceremony, the celebrations to mark the PRI's 50th anniversary include an assembly to which progressive parties from all over the world have been invited. It will begin here in this city tomorrow.

Queretaro is located 22 km northeast of Mexico City. It is here that the 1917 constitution, which is still in force, was drafted and Emperor Maximilian of Austria was executed in 1867.

COSTA RICA

ECHEVERRIA TOURING BORDER AREA; SANDINISTS CAPTURED IN UPALA

PA071410 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey and top officials and commanders of the public force left for the northern border region last night. Rodolfo Martin, our special correspondent who accompanied the group, reported early today that four Sandinists were captured last night in Upala. The security minister will be touring all border sites in the northern region where Sandinists may be located and visit places where the Nicaraguan National Guard was reported to have invaded our territory.

ECONOMY MINISTER LEAVES FOR U.S. TO DISCUSS TUNA TREATY

PA071400 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Economy Minister Fernando Altmann Ortiz left on an emergency trip to Washington yesterday to participate in tuna talks with State Department officials. Negotiations for a new treaty on the conservation of and fishing for tropical tuna broke off in Mexico last month.

GUATEMALA

CLOSING OF HONDURAN BORDER NOT DEFINITE

PA071603 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Government sources have revealed that Economy Ministry authorities feel the closing of the border between Guatemala and Honduras is not yet definite, pending a meeting of the economy ministers of the two countries to clarify the existing situation, mainly matters concerning the bilateral agreement to be signed.

The same sources said immediate action on closing the border was required since Honduras has failed to honor an agreement recently reached at a meeting in Washington. The decision will be upheld, the sources added, until the bilateral agreement is clarified, especially in regard to textile and clothing as these are the only issues pending for an agreement on quotas.

OFFICIAL DENIES REPORTED FUEL RATIONING BY TEXACO

PA071210 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Gustavo Adolfo Barrios Flores, under secretary of energy and hydrocarbons, said today that it is false that the Texaco Company, which is operating in this country, has rationed the fuel to consumers as certain persons have charged. The minister added that the company had faced internal problems but that they had been solved.

Barrios Flores said that Texaco representatives had explained their situation to government authorities, noting that at no time had the company rationed fuel to consumers. There is therefore no problem in that area.

The under secretary also said that fuel is being distributed at the usual rate throughout the country and that the needs of consumers will be met without rationing, as had been reported by several consumers.

JOURNALISTS CHALLENGE GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE ATTACKS

PA071942 Paris AFP in Spanish 0229 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Mar (AFP)--The Guatemalan Chamber of Journalism [Camara Guatemalteca de Periodismo] today publicly challenged the government of the republic to investigate and issue a report on attacks against press organs and newsmen. The chamber is concerned about a series of actions and incidents over the past few months which have seriously affected the country's communications media and newsmen in one way or another.

According to the chamber, the armed attacks on press organs over the past few months and the intimidation of newsmen are meant to "create a climate of insecurity and fear in order to curtail free reporting and impose so-called self-censorship, which is nothing more than restriction by terror."

The chamber asked that the results of the investigation be made public in order to prevent the "government from making capricious and confusing interpretations."

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS--Five new ambassadors will present their credentials to President Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia in ceremonies to be held today. They are Fernando Sanchez Herdocia of Nicaragua, Edgardo Vives Campos of Colombia, Antonio Carlos de Abreu e Silva of Brazil, Rear Adm Jose Vargas Valenzuela of Bolivia and Gen Octavio Gonzalez Batlle of Chile. [Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA]

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT SEES SUBVERSIVE PLOT IN SAN PEDRO SULA CLASH

Police, Strikers Clash

PA071221 Paris AFP in Spanish 0307 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 6 Mar (AFP)--It was reported today that 3 workers were killed, some 100 arrested and an undetermined number of persons were injured in confrontations between strikers and police here in Honduras' second most important city. According to a police source, unidentified workers set fire to the Bemis Handal textile factory, where the strikers are employed. The fire threatened to destroy neighboring industrial enterprises. The source added that as of 2030 (0230 GMT Wednesday) the fire had not yet been brought under control.

A labor union source said the 400 workers at the factory went on strike today because the company had refused to meet their demands, which include the dismissal of several executives and the removal of the closed-circuit television surveillance which had even been installed in bathrooms.

After voting to stage the strike, the workers attempted to take over the installations but were repelled by police who had entered the Bemis Handal facilities early in the morning in order to protect the installations. Certain unidentified elements managed to get inside and set the fire, whereupon the police fired at them, an official spokesman said.

Government Statement

PA071432 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1351 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran military government revealed here today the existence of a subversive plan in which national and foreign professional agitators are involved. Citizens were told over a national radio and television network that "it is a criminal plan which seeks to create disorder and anarchy to destabilize the current social peace and hinder the democratic process of the return to a constitutional system and the development programs."

The government indicated in a public statement that "the subversives are using demands made to the government by certain professional and union sectors to hinder the climate of freedom in Honduras, interpreting it as weakness."

The government promised to maintain social peace, personal and institutional integrity, and to turn over to justice those who attack individuals, private property and the state. It issued a call to management and labor to structure their relations within the labor laws since any abnormal action will hinder coexistence and endanger the stability necessary for the development of a peaceful and calm life.

The government appealed to the National Autonomous University so that, as director of Honduran higher education, "it will maintain itself in the specific field of its functions."

Foreigners were asked to respect the country's laws and to remain outside all affairs which are the exclusive concern of Hondurans.

Teachers were asked to return to their functions as educators and guides of youth, preventing schools from becoming centers of indoctrination leading students to participate in disorder. Parents were asked to impose their authority over their children and advise them to stay away from public demonstrations so that they will not regret unforeseen events.

The government's public statement became necessary when it was learned here today that police and workers clashed yesterday in the northern Honduran city of San Pedro Sula. The clash resulted in several dead and wounded. Press reports indicated that three workors of the Bemis Handal textile factory were shot to death and that many were wounded. There was also a fire which completely destroyed the factory installations. Losses are estimated at approximately 20 million lempiras ($10 million).

The clash occurred when workers called a strike to demand economic and social improvements and cancellation of a closed-circuit television system which constantly watched them, even in the bathrooms.

The strikers took over the factory and the owner called the police. The workers refused to leave the factory and threw rocks at the police, who responded with gunfire.

Approximately 100 workers were arrested by the police and are being questioned to determine those responsible for the fire since firemen indicated that arson was involved.

According to the newspaper reports in Tegucigalpa today, several explosions were heard just as a pitched battle began in the yards of the Bemis Handal textile factory.

The report of the clash between the police and the workers in San Pedro Sula was not learned until today in Tegucigalpa due to poor telecommunications between the two cities and the confusion which had not permitted the real facts to be known.

In today's statement, the government said that appeals to the citizens are made as a "warning" because it is interested in continuing to maintain the country's climate of peace and tranquillity. It also indicated that it will use all its resources to maintain public order so as not to permit a wave of violence to occur, as other countries are unfortunately experiencing.

POLICE TO UNDERTAKE 'ALL-OUT WAR' ON CRIME

PA072038 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1937 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--In April, Honduran police will undertake "an all-out war" against the wave of violence that the country has been experiencing since the middle of last year, it was learned here today. The hierarchy will be reorganized and troops reinforced and well stocked with materials and equipment for short-, medium- and long-range operations against criminals who will be pursued wherever they seek refuge.

The decision was made in view of sharp press criticism of police "inability" to keep order in Honduran cities and of the wave of assaults on banks, businesses, cafeterias, bars and private homes.

Police have received almost unanimous support from the news media, which have asked for "firm action" [manu militari] against criminals but have warned against excesses that might lead to "another type of repression."

According to what was said, Tegucigalpa will be the key target of the war on violence. The Honduran capital has nearly 350,000 permanent residents, 70 percent living in slum areas, and about 70,000 people who make up the floating population. Once the capital is "clean," police will begin regionalizing their anticrime operations.

NICARAGUA

FLAREUP OF VIOLENCE REPORTED IN SEVERAL CITIES

PA071758 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1733 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--An increase in attacks and acts of sabotage in the past 24 hours has resulted in a toll of several dead and wounded and losses in the millions, it was reported today, Wednesday.

Two watchmen were killed and one was wounded in a guerrilla attack staged yesterday on "Las Posoltega," in Leon Department, western Nicaragua. From 30 to 40 armed men, some wearing olive drab uniforms, dynamited the cotton gin, burning about 7,000 bales of cotton ready to be exported and damaging the enterprise's modern machinery. Losses are estimated at over 10 million cordobas ($1.4 million).

In the same department, alleged members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) sabotaged the "Denisa" and "San Jose" cotton gins, which suffered less damage, and stole cars and weapons.

Sources in Chinandega, also in the west, revealed that young men armed with light machineguns went to the "Toro Blanco" hacienda and stole about 300,000 cordobas ($42,857). The money was for the pickers' payroll.

In the meantime, in Managua an alleged guerrilla brigade stole an armored car of the Nicaraguan National Bank which was transporting about 400,000 cordobas ($57,142). Three armed guards in the car were kidnaped along with the car and have not been heard of since.

A third violent death occurred here last night. An official of the Nicaraguan Housing Bank, Domingo Solorzano, was shot and killed by an unidentified person as he arrived at his home in the Independencia district, south of Managua. The murderer fled on a motorcycle driven by another individual. The victim had received death threats by telephone before the attack.

An attempted attack was repulsed on Monday at the home of the president of the same bank, Ricardo Parrales, in Jinotepe, southern Nicaragua.

Alcides Meza, administrator of a liquor storehouse in Managua, was shot yesterday when two men armed with revolvers went into the store asking for money and arms for the revolutionary struggle. Together with two more men who remained outside on guard, they fled shooting their weapons and taking about (?3,000) cordobas ($428) as well as the revolver of a guard who was wounded in the holdup.

Meanwhile, an alleged Sandinist brigade, the "Claudia Chamorro" brigade, has issued a death sentence against the members of the Professional Taxi Drivers Union in Managua who have just received government license plates to operate about 30 taxis. The plates are a right we had been demanding from the state and not a concession involving any kind of a political compromise with the present regime, said the president of the union, Ivan Manuel Mora, who was attacked yesterday. Several shots fired from a station wagon missed him.

Included in the list of victims of the generalized violence in the country were two watchmen of the "El Punto" commercial center in southern Managua. They were found with their throats cut and another watchman is missing. His personal effects were found at the job site. The crime is attributed to common criminals who are being sought by the authorities.

In Condega, Esteli Department, northern Nicaragua, several clashes between Sandinists and National Guard soldiers have been reported. A detailed report of these actions is expected today from the army's public relations office.

Further on Attacks, Robberies

PA080430 Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0030 GMT 8 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua Police Commander Col Nicolas Valle Salinas this morning confirmed for newsmen that over 400,000 cordobas were stolen in the robbery at the Ciudad Gardenia branch of the Nicaragua National Bank which took place yesterday. Later in the day another 350,000 cordobas were lost when a van was assaulted by several armed persons at kilometer 7 on the northern highway. Colonel Valle Salinas added that yesterday the police arrested a band of bank robbers consisting of eight men and women, who confessed to the authorities that they have participated in several bank robberies in this capital. However, it was not determined whether they are to blame for the two robberies yesterday.

Referring to the wave of crime which has upset the capital, Colonel Valle Salinas said that last night three guards who were working at the (Espinton) commercial center were killed in an atrocious manner. They were Abram Mejia Serrano, Justo Pastor Mendez and another unidentified watchman. All the bodies have been taken to the morgue of Retiro Hospital.

Colonel Valle Salinas added that so far investigations have revealed no firm evidence regarding the deaths of the three watchmen, but that an investigation corps is in charge of the case. He added that, in view of the manner in which the guards were killed, the murders are believed to have been the work of a maniac or other elements. The bodies had been mutilated with knife wounds.

SANDINISTS BLAME 'GOONS' FOR ATTACKS ON SMALL BUSINESSMEN

PA070430 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The Proletarian Faction of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] released a communique here assuming responsibility for subversive actions committed during the commemoration of the anniversary of Sandino's killing.

During the past month several cities such as Diriamba and Carazo were attacked and bombs were planted in Managua, Masaya and Chinandega. The Proletarian Faction of the FSLN says that attacks against small businessmen are carried out by groups of goons protected by Somoza.

HAVANA RADIO AIRS INTERVIEWS WITH SANDINIST LEADERS

On Imperialist Maneuvers

PA061521 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The following is an interview with two Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] leaders. This interview was recorded somewhere in Nicaragua and sent to Radio Havana. The leaders are Humberto Ortega Saavedra, member of the FSLN National Directorate, and Oscar Perez Cazar, coordinator of the Political-Military Committee of the domestic front of the Sandinist organization. First you will hear Humberto Ortega refer to the U.S. imperialist maneuvers attempting to frustrate the victory of the Nicaraguan people.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] We believe that the United States is promoting various maneuvers. It has been promoting maneuvers for a long time, but the one which affects us most, which must be strongly denounced throughout the world and which all peoples must be aware of and help us destroy is the maneuver of the installation of Somozism without Somoza. This could simply take the form of a coup d'etat, a civic-military coup with the National Guard and the sectors which during the mediation conducted themselves in a defeatist manner with the Yankees, the most reactionary sectors of the Broad Opposition Front which have not heeded the will of the people. On the contrary, they have allowed themselves to be used in a shameful manner for these reactionary maneuvers.

In this sense we wish to alert the world and request world solidarity to immediately condemn any coupist solution. Any coupist solution at this time would be made behind the backs of the people, and the people, we are confident and certain, will know how to smash such a solution.

At the same time, we wish to point out that the Sandinist Front is opposed to such a coupist solution staged by the most dangerous sectors of imperialism and of Nicaragua. The front is also opposed to any internationalization of the conflict in Nicaragua. By internationalization of the conflict we mean the effort or the imperialist maneuver to have Latin American forces from different governments participate directly with troops in the Nicaraguan problem. We do not agree with such maneuvers.

[Second voice, presumably Perez] It is important to point out the aspect to which Humberto referred. It is perfectly clear that imperialism and the most reactionary sectors of our people, together with the dictatorship, seek to halt the people's progress in Nicaragua and neutralize, by means of intervention by Salvadoran and Guatemalan forces, the possibility of a popular victory. We are confident that under these conditions the Sandinist Front and the Nicaraguan people will know how to reply, as they did from 1927 to 1933.

As Comrade Pomares has said, the forces from these countries would enter Nicaragua alive, but it would be unlikely that they would ever leave it that way; they would go out dead. We have so much confidence in the political awareness and the capacity of the Sandinist Front that any intervention by Salvadoran or Guatemalan gorillas would be countered by our people's complete and total steadfastness.

On the other hand, it is important to note that Somoza's government would like to cut off the massive moral solidarity which our people are receiving, especially that from Costa Rica. The dictatorship seeks to rekindle the conflict, implicating Costa Rican forces, by penetration across the border in the Nicaraguan conflict and thus saving itself from the crisis it is now experiencing.

However, the FSLN is aware that our problem in Nicaragua must be solved by overthrowing the dictatorship, preventing this conflict from becoming an international matter. We are also aware that the moral solidarity which we have received from different democratic governments is vital, that it has been necessary for our people and that the dictatorship is trying to attenuate this moral solidarity, especially in the case of Venezuela and Panama and even the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Surinam and Colombia, by trying to get them to interfere in the internal crisis, especially the Panamanian, Venezuelan and Colombia governments. However, those governments know clearly that the Nicaraguan problem will be solved by the Nicaraguan people themselves. In any case, they will not fall for the provocations of Somozism or even imperialism, which wants to manage the Central American Defense Council as a force of pressure to provoke them into interfering . That would in no case be an adequate alternative or solution in the opinion of our national leadership and the Sandinist Front in general. We need a viable solution which will permit us to establish a democratic system in Nicaragua that would make the necessary changes responding to the needs of our people, who have been frustrated by 40 years of dictatorship. [end recording]

On National Patriotic Front

PA071955 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The following is an interview with two Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] leaders. This interview was recorded somewhere in Nicaragua and sent to Radio Havana. The leaders are Humberto Ortega Saavedra, member of the FSLN National Directorate, and Oscar Perez Cazar, coordinator of the Political-Military Committee of the domestic front of the Sandinist organization. First you will hear Oscar Perez Cazar refer to the emergence of the National Patriotic Front [Frente Patriotico Nacional--FPN] and its role in the Nicaraguan People's struggle against the pro-imperialist dynasty of Anastasio Somoza.

[Begin recording] [Perez Cazar] We consider the FPN to be a qualitative factor in the political struggle being waged by the Nicaraguan people against the Somoza dictatorship. We must bear in mind that the dictatorship was born with the intention of halting the progress of the people, as was experienced about 1934, that is, the progress of the people manifested through the Sandinist struggle.

The Somoza dictatorship has been rejected by the people. In other words, the Somoza dictatorship restricts democratic transformations in our country. These democratic transformations in fact benefit those sectors that needed the dictatorship in the past. But now those sectors are opposed to the dictatorship, as are many other sectors affected by the interests of the dictatorship. Therefore, the FSLN considers it vital and essential at this stage of the revolution to combine forces so as to deal a telling blow to the dictatorship, which is contrary to the general interests of the Nicaraguan people.

The FPN was created with this goal in mind, alining all anti-Somoza, anti-imperialist sectors. The FPN consists of all those sectors seeking to take the country toward truly revolutionary transformations that respond to the vital needs of the Nicaraguans. Above all, with the maneuvers which were evidenced in the announced plebiscite where they wanted to create a Somozism without Somoza, the FSLN, the Nicaraguan people, saw the need to uncover this Somozism without Somoza, to denounce it. Thus a solid front was formed of all anti-Somoza and anti-imperialist forces which do not want mere formal changes in our country but true changes which will respond to the people's demands. The FPN was created on this basis as a coalition of democratic, nationalist, anti-imperialist forces combined to strike harder at the Somoza dictatorship. The FPN consists of all popular, anti-imperialist forces opposed to the dictatorship. Sooner or later they will launch the political offensive that will take the Somoza dictatorship to a general crisis. This revolutionary situation will permit us to end the Somoza dictatorship.

[Ortega] We have only to add that the FPN, in addition to being an instrument to assist the people's armed struggle against the dictatorship, will also permit us to confront more easily the chaos or anarchy which imperialism and the most reactionary sectors seek to implement once we overthrow Somoza. The FPN will incorporate significant forces of the nation, including companions from various social sectors, who are anti-Somoza and who want a program of historic revolutionary transformations, which imperialism and history have denied. We must rebuild Nicaragua, achieving a higher, scientifically planned development to satisfy the needs of the people. But we must first rebuild the bases which have been virtually destroyed by the imperialist Somozist domination of more than 40 years.

The FPN combines the most honest, nationalist, patriotic sectors of Nicaraguans who really want to save Nicaragua by uniting Nicaraguans in the struggle against Somoza and who want to rebuild Nicaragua, ridding it of all domination, both domestic and foreign. The fruits of the movement in this direction are evident. The FPN movement combines popular, leftist organizations--16 organizations--including the Group of 12, which has maintained a belligerent, steadfast stand against the dictatorship, and other sectors of the opposition in Nicaragua. We expect the FPN to be strengthened still further in the national struggle. [end recording]

131 TEACHERS OF SECOND CONTINGENT LEAVE FOR ANGOLA

FL072258 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 7 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The first group of the second contingent of the Che Guevara internationalist teaching detachment has left for Angola. There are 131 students in this first group, who will be teaching in the Provinces of Huambo, Benguela and Mocamedes. The three remaining groups will be leaving in the next few days. They will all be in Angola for 2 years.

MAY DAY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED

FL071234 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The May Day National Organizing Committee, which is responsible for all activities of the trade union movement in honor of the world proletariat's great commemoration, was established during a meeting held at the trade union headquarters. The committee is composed of Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Central Committee and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, as president; Agapito Figueroa, Rosario Fernandez and Francisco Linares as vice presidents; and Rene Penalver, Jose de Jesus Linares, Luis Martell and Alfredo (Fontaini) as members.

MILIAN TOURS PEASANT AREAS IN CAMAGUEY PROVINCE

FL080052 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Today Arnaldo Milian, member of the PCC Politburo, accompanied by Jose Ramirez Cruz, member of the Central Committee and president of the National Association of Small Farmers, ANAP, toured the area of Camalote in Camaguey Province, which is a traditional peasant area. Miliab visited the sites of a future canning plant, an irrigation systems plant and the "20 de Octubre" cooperative. The most outstanding cooperatives of Camaguey Province are located in the area of Camalote.

VALDES MEETS WITH SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION OFFICIAL

FL080034 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Ramiro Valdes Menendez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Vitaliy Morosov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Economic Cooperation, at the cement plant under construction in the area of Guabairo, Cienfuegos Province. The leaders of the two countries exchanged opinions on the projects under construction in Cuba that are being built with Soviet help--among them the ten highest priority projects and other construction projects in Cienfuegos Province.

DORTICOS RECEIVES VISITING CEMA OFFICIAL

FL072037 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2032 GMT 7 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Osvaldo Dorticos, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received (Anatoliy Kirilenko), director of the CEMA Standardization Institute, who is visiting our country at the invitation of the State Committee for Standardization. At the meeting (Kirilenko) explained the work being done by the aforementioned institute, and Dorticos discussed general problems of the economy and development of standardization in Cuba.

DELEGATIONS TO FIRST FEU CONGRESS BEGIN ARRIVING

FL071133 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The Mexican delegation to the First Congress of the Federation of University Students [FEU], which will begin next Sunday at the Lazaro Pena Auditorium of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers building, has arrived in Havana. This is the first foreign delegation to arrive of 56 invited to that important meeting. The remaining delegations, representing the National Union of Vietnamese Students, student organizations from socialist countries, international organizations to which Cuba belongs, World Federation of Democratic Youth and the All-Africa Student Union, will arrive by 11 March. Other delegations invited to the event include student representatives from liberation movements of southern Africa, Angola, Ethiopia and the Palestinian Students General Union, as well as Latin American student organizations. All the delegations will subsequently participate in the Sixth Congress of Latin American students.

CAMAGUEY UNIVERSITY SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIAN SCHOOL

FL071844 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Camaguey University has signed its first multilateral cooperation agreement with a Bulgarian higher education center--the Higher Institute for Zootechnology and Veterinary Medicine of Stara Zagora. Professor Emeritus Dr Vuto Gruev, rector of the aforementioned school, and Dr Juan Vela Valdez, of Camaguey University, signed the agreement. Prof (Khristov Neychev), dean of the Veterinary Medicine School of Stara Zagora, attended the signing ceremony. Camaguey University previously had signed multilateral cooperation agreements with higher education institutes of the Soviet Union and Hungary.

HEALTH MINISTER ANNOUNCES INFANT MORTALITY RATE

FL071836 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Mar 79 FL

[Excerpt] The infant mortality rate in our country dropped to 22.3 [per 1,000 births] in 1978. This is the lowest figure achieved in the history of Cuban and Latin American medicine. Public Health Minister Dr Jose A. Gutierrez Muniz made the announcement in an interview with the newspaper GRANMA. The infant mortality rate in 1969 was extremely high. It was more than 44.7 deaths per 1,000 live births. We expect to reach lower figures in coming years, the minister added, because we must keep in mind that six provinces had rates lower than 20 last year, including Villa Clara with 17.

THIRD QUARTER 1978 IMPORTS, EXPORTS REPORTED

FL051510 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Mar 79 p 9 FL

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 28 Feb (CANA)--Jamaica's imports and exports fell between August and September, 1978 and the country finished the third quarter with a deficit of nearly $50 million.

According to the external trade statistical bulletin, imports for September were at $101.9 million $5.1 million lower than August figures.

Total exports also dropped by $2.3 million for the same period, moving from $100.3 million in August to $98 million at the end of September.

These changes in total imports were caused by declines mainly in the sections: Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, chemicals, machinery and transport equipment, and crude materials inedible, except fuels, which counterbalanced increases in the food bracket.

In the case of exports, the section "foods" accounted for the greater share of the decrease.

For the period January to September 1978, imports reached $811.5 million and exports $764.7 million. This resulted in a balanced of visible trade deficit of $46.8 million as compared with $42.7 million for the corresponding period of 1977.

When compared with the figures for the period January to September 1977, imports and exports rose by $249.6 million (44.4 per cent) and $245.4 million (47.3 per cent), respectively.

The increases in imports include "food" ($52.9 million or 52.6 per cent), chemicals ($27.9 million or 44.6 per cent), manufactured goods ($91 million or 91.4 per cent), machinery and transport equipment ($33.8 million or 49.5 per cent), and miscellaneous manufactured articles ($16.4 million or 77.9 per cent).

In the case of exports, the sections which showed heavy increases were food ($34.7 million or 43.8 per cent), and crude materials, inedible, except fuels ($181.8 million or 52.3 per cent).

There was a decline in exports to the European Common Market (ECM) in September, while exports to North America showed an increase. The value of trade with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region registered a fall, as both imports and exports declined in September last year.

FRANCE TO COOPERATE IN URANIUM EXPLORATION

FL021555 Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Feb 79 p 16 FL

[Text] A new chapter in the history of mining in Guyana was started yesterday with the signing of a protocol agreement between Guyana and a French firm for the exploration of Uranium in the country.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Cde Hubert Jack signed on behalf of the Guyana Government while Mr Blanc Jacques, general secretary of Cogema, the French firm, signed for his firm.

Speaking at the brief and simple ceremony yesterday, Cde Jack explained that the agreement gives to Cogema, "in the first instance...non-exclusive permission to explore for uranium", in Guyana.

"I think the agreement which we have signed and which gives in the first instance to Cogema, non-exclusive permission to explore for uranium, is really a first step in the growing co-operation not only between Cogema and Guyana but also between France and Guyana", Cde Jack explained.

"We know of the high reputation of Cogema and of the successes which you have achieved in finding and extracting uranium in other countries and we look forward to you duplicating that success here in Guyana", he said.

The French firm has extensive experience in the exploration and extraction of uranium. It has found and is currently extracting the radioactive metallic element in Niger and in Gabon, Africa--two mines in Niger and one in Gabon.

In addition, Cogema is involved in the mining of uranium in three districts in France.

In his brief remarks at yesterday's signing ceremony, Mr Blanc Jacques noted that the discussions between his firm and Guyana were started since 1977 and that there was good co-operation between the two parties. He added: "Our common aim is to find economic deposits of uranium in Guyana and to exploit these for mutual profits".

He said the parties were now at the first stages of the exercise but that geologists from his firm and local geologists would be going to the fields "as soon as possible" to do the necessary preparatory works before the experts meet to prepare the final agreement.

The CHRONICLE understands that according to the terms of the protocol agreement, Cogema will be able to explore for uranium throughout most of the country but excluding the coastland. However, informed sources have explained that operations are likely to be launched in the Pakaraima area.

In the meantime, Mr Lelitsch Yannick, a geologist attached to Cogema and who was present at yesterday's signing ceremony, will be remaining in Guyana for some time to discuss and to plan approaches to Cogema's operations in Guyana with local officials of the Energy and Natural Resources Ministry.